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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Food and Nutrition Service**

#### **Nominations Open for the Vacancies on the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Nominations open for the vacancies on the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition.

**SUMMARY:** FNS is seeking nominations for 8 vacancies on the National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition (Council). The Council is composed of 24 members.

Members of the Council from outside USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are appointed for 3-year terms. State and local officials may serve only during their official tenure. Parent participants are appointed for 2-year terms. Members appointed from USDA and HHS serve at the pleasure of their respective Secretaries.

The Council studies the operation of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and related programs such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Categories of membership are specified by law. To assure a balance of differing views, Council members are drawn from Federal, State and local

governments, industry, and organizations with a common interest in the management of WIC and CSFP, including parent participants in both programs.

The vacant positions include:

### **State CSFP Director**

The individual responsible for administering the CSFP at the State level. Has operational knowledge about all aspects of CSFP management.

### **State Health Officer**

The official usually referred to as the health commissioner or director, who heads the State health department. This person is responsible for overseeing a wide range of public health services provided by the State health agency.

### **State Public Health Nutrition Director**

The official of the State health department responsible for directing public health nutrition services, which include the areas of maternal, infant and child nutrition, elderly nutrition, and nutrition for persons with developmental disabilities and chronic diseases.

### **Official from a State Agency Serving Predominantly Indians**

Individual responsible for WIC Program Operations for an Indian Tribal Organization. WIC authorizing legislation allows Indian tribes, bands or groups that are recognized by the Department of Interior to operate as State agencies independent of geographic WIC State agencies.

**Local CSFP Project Director**

The individual responsible for administering the CSFP at the local level. Has operational knowledge about all aspects of CSFP management.

**CSFP Parent Participant**

A pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding woman, or the parent/guardian of an infant and/or child participating in CSFP.

**Person Involved at the Retail Sales Level of Food**

An individual from a company or organization involved in retail food sales.

**Expert in Drug Abuse Education and Prevention**

An individual experienced in alcohol abuse education and prevention, especially in the areas of screening, counseling and referring for treatment of pregnant and postpartum women.

Section 17(k) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 USC 1786), mandates the Council and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint the members. The White House Liaison Office is responsible for vetting every candidate who applies for membership to the Council. In order to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to serve on a board, council or committee, each applicant must clear all stages of the vetting process. Vetting is a comprehensive personal and professional background investigation that specifically includes, but is not limited to, an analysis of each candidate's criminal history, bankruptcy filings, liens and judgments, affiliations and associations, lobbyist status, and prior involvement with USDA.

This process is used to ensure that the finest candidates are selected to represent the interests of the United States Department of Agriculture. Individuals and organizations who wish to nominate experts for this or any other USDA advisory committee should submit a letter to the Secretary listing these individuals' names and business address, phone, and e-mail contact information. These individuals may be contacted now or in the future to determine their interest in serving as a committee member.

Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the Council should submit an AD-755 application form and resume to the Secretary of Agriculture. Cover letters should be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture. All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and postmarked by [INSERT 30 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION] to: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250 at the attention of Robin Young, DFO, USDA/FNS/SFPD. The application form and more information about advisory committees can be found at [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=advisory\\_committees.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=advisory_committees.xml).

FNS has special interest in assuring that women, minority groups, and the physically disabled are adequately represented on these advisory committees. We encourage and welcome nominations for qualified female, minority, or disabled candidates.

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Audrey Rowe,

Dated: \_\_September 18, 2015.\_\_

Administrator,

Food and Nutrition Service.

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